

The Off-Site Source Recovery

Project News

RECOVERY

In September of 2001 the Los Alamos National Laboratory's (LANL) Off-site Source Recovery (OSR)

Project completed its first recovery campaign for radioactive sealed sources containing Am-241 from nuclear gauges. The OSR Project has responsibility for collection and interim storage of excess transuranic sealed sources under the authority of Public Law 99-240. The goal of the OSR Project work was to demonstrate new capabilities by removal of excess combination (AmBe/Cs-137) and AmBe moisture density gauge sources from three sites in the US. A total of 268 combination sources and 1008 AmBe sources were packaged and shipped to LANL. These sources are commonly found in portable moisture density gauges.



The combination sources had long been recognized to be particularly problematic, since gauge manufacturers were reluctant to accept additional units without an apparent avenue for disposal of obsolete sources already in their inventory. The now established capability of the OSR Project to handle combination sources as well as the ubiquitous AmBe gauge sources should allow ready removal of obsolete gauges from the many licensees in the US.

If you are a licensee holding these obsolete gauges, please contact any major gauge manufacturer for information on transferring these devices.



Information about the OSR Project is available at: <http://osrp.lanl.gov>.

